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House Panel OKs Warning to Korea in Scandal Probe

UNANIMOUSLY THREATENS CUTOFF OF NON-MILITARY AID

By Ron Sarro

Washington Star Staff Writer

The House International Relations Committee today voted 31-0 to tell South Korea it must provide a key witness in the congressional influence-buying probe or risk a cutoff of non-military assistance.

The unanimous vote by a committee that is usually extremely friendly to South Korea was viewed as a blow to President Park Chung Hee, who has stubbornly refused to make former South Korean Ambassador Kim Dong Jo available to congressional investigators.

THE RESOLUTION adopted this morning was a compromise between a tougher proposal made by House Special Counsel Leon Jaworski and a weaker one backed by Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., chairman of the International Relations Committee.

It was adopted despite a strong plea from the State Department that no such harsh action be taken against South Korea.

Kim allegedly delivered at least 24 envelopes filled with \$100 bills to congressmen in an effort to buy influence for President Park's government. At least two members of the

International Relations Committee received such envelopes from Kim or his wife and returned them.

The vote today was a victory of sorts for Jaworski, but his chief aide said congressional investigators still would push on the House floor for restoration of language cutting off assistance if Kim is not provided.

"The resolution is strong," said Peter White, chief aide to Jaworski. "We can't neglect this fact, nor can the government of Korea."

But he added that the resolution was "not the final word" and sug-

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gested that an amendment would be offered to strengthen it along the lines that Jaworski wants.

IN ANY EVENT, South Korea is now faced with a demand by one of its most friendly congressional committees, which in adopting the resolution noted that President Park's government has not been cooperating with the United States, an ally that fought for its territorial sovereignty in the 1950s and has provided billions in aid over the last 28 years.

South Korea has relied on diplomatic immunity in withholding the testimony of Kim. Jaworski maintains Kim can voluntarily provide the testimony under oath and do so in a neutral country without the necessity of appearing before the full House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which is investigating congressional wrongdoing in the case.

Today's compromise was worked out by an ad hoc committee that included Reps. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., John Buchanan, R-Ala., Jonathan Bingham, D-N.Y., Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., and Paul Findley, R-Ill.

It says that it is the sense of the House that the government of South Korea should "cooperate fully" in providing Kim's testimony "under oath, affirmation, or comparable means of assuring reliability which are satisfactory to that committee."

If Kim should refuse to provide information "at an early date," the House "will be prepared to deny or reduce" non-military assistance when it considers bills appropriating funds for Korea, the resolution says.

There is an escape clause, intended to tell North Korea the United States is not abandoning its ally, to the effect that such action would only be taken if it did not harm U.S. national security or Korean "territorial integrity." At the present time, the resolution says, such a cutoff of funds would not harm either.

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U.S. GOT HILL NAMES BY BREAKING SEOUL'S SECRET CODE

By Richard G. Zimmerman

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Evidence suggesting that at least 10 present members of Congress accepted cash payments from a South Korean ambassador was obtained by the National Security Agency after diplomatic codes used by the Korean embassy here were intercepted and broken by agency cryptologists.

According to sources in the intelligence community, the information on the alleged payoffs, which was being transmitted to Seoul in the early 1970s by then-Korean Ambassador Kim Dong Jo, has been supplied to

Leon Jaworski, special counsel to the House ethics committee. It is primarily on the basis of the NSA intercepts that Jaworski is insisting that Kim be forced to return to the United States to testify in the Korean payoff scandal.

HOUSE ETHICS committee sources say the only way any sitting members of the House will be deeply implicated in the scandal is if Kim testifies.

Jaworski refused to comment yesterday on the report that the evidence he obliquely alluded to during a hearing Monday had come from the

NSA's cryptology section. He said he has not even told members of the committee the source of the potentially explosive evidence, nor has he named the suspected members of Congress.

At Monday's hearing, Jaworski referred only to "information that we cannot now disclose" which indicates cash payments were offered by Kim and accepted by several unnamed congressmen.

Jaworski is reluctant to publicly use the NSA evidence for two reasons, one source speculated.

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First, he does not want to be in the position of having to disclose that the NSA has broken Korea's diplomatic code and has been monitoring the Korean embassy here — even though attempting to monitor and decode diplomatic messages is a common practice in most world capitals. Korea is still considered a major U.S. ally and monitoring its diplomatic messages would not be considered a friendly act.

SECOND, THERE IS evidence that other Koreans involved in the alleged payoff scandal, such as Tongsun Park and Hancho Kim, tended to exaggerate the scope and importance of their activity on Capitol Hill when reporting to superiors in Seoul. Thus Kim's intercepted messages involving alleged payoffs to House members cannot be accepted at face value until he is questioned in detail by committee investigators.

There is compelling evidence that Kim attempted to pass the proverbial plain white envelopes stuffed with \$100 bills to House members.

A former employee at the Korean Embassy has testified that in 1971 he chanced upon Kim while he was stuffing two dozen envelopes with cash. When asked where he was going, Kim is said to have replied, "to the Capitol."

A congressional secretary testified that Kim left an unmarked, cash-filled envelope with Rep. Larry Winn Jr., R-Kan., about a year later. A short time later Winn ordered the money returned. There has never been an explanation as to why Winn accepted the money in the first place if he did not plan to keep it.

THE WIVES OF REPS. John Myers, R-Ind., and Kiko de la Garza, D-Texas, testified that Kim Dong Jo's wife tried to force cash on them for their husbands' use during a trip the two couples made to Korea. The money was refused.

Kim Dong Jo has accused the former embassy employee of lying and claimed the secretary was mistaken when she identified his picture as being of the person who passed the envelope to Winn. The former ambassador has refused to waive diplomatic immunity and return to testify before the ethics committee.

While the evidence that Kim attempted to pass money to congressmen is strong, there has never been publicly released evidence that any congressmen accepted the cash.

During the time the Koreans were most active on Capitol Hill it was not illegal to accept campaign contributions from a foreign national if the money came from personal funds. So those who accepted money from Tongsun Park could claim they did not know the contributions he made came from other than personal funds.

But during the same period it was illegal to accept campaign contributions or any gift from a foreign government or its representative.